This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Various				
Atherosclerosis; diabetes; obesity	Delta-like 4 (DLL4)	<p>Mouse studies suggest antagonizing DLL4 could help treat atherosclerosis and metabolic diseases. In a mouse model of diet-induced atherosclerosis, a DLL4-blocking antibody decreased weight gain, severity of atherosclerotic lesions and macrophage numbers in adipose tissue compared with IgG control. In these mice, the DLL4-blocking antibody also increased insulin sensitivity compared with IgG control. Next steps could include testing the effects of chronic DLL4 blockade.</p> <p>OncoMed Pharmaceuticals Inc.'s demcizumab, a human mAb against DLL4, is in Phase I testing for various cancers.</p> <p>Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Sanofi have REGN421, a human mAb against DLL4, in Phase I testing for solid tumors.</p> <p>SciBX 5(28); doi:10.1038/scibx.2012.739 Published online July 19, 2012</p>	Patent and licensing status unavailable	<p>Fukuda, D. <i>et al. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA</i>; published online June 13, 2012; doi:10.1073/pnas.1116889109</p> <p>Contact: Masanori Aikawa, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass. e-mail: maikawa@rics.bwh.harvard.edu</p>